The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers / L'Association canadienne des professeurs de langues secondes

CASLT/ACPLS

Outstanding Innovation Awards in French Second Language Education

Ottawa, Ontario, May 26, 2005 – The Canadian Association of Second Language Teachers (CASLT) recently awarded two members with the 2005 H.H. Stern Award.

Award winner, Nicole Roy, a teacher in Vancouver, BC, has been instrumental in implementing the Peer Tutoring Program that fosters literacy in French Immersion classrooms. Ms. Roy partnered with a parent to design this unique program which links younger students with older peer tutors for reading support.

Peer tutors are taught about reading strategies, organization and communication. This process is beneficial to both the tutor and the younger student and can be adapted to all French classes. "The fact that the program has been implemented by schools in British Columbia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan is a testimony to its enormous value," stated CASLT spokesperson, John Erskine,

Kimberly MacDonald of Antigonish, NS is recognized for her work in integrating new technologies into post-secondary French Second Language (FSL) education. Ms. MacDonald has developed an Internet-based tool for post-secondary, beginner FSL learners to experience 'virtual, cultural exchanges,' increasing their exposure and enhancing their proficiency in FSL studies.

Educators can adapt this tool to be used by students of various levels and ages. "Face-to-face exposure to French makes the language real and useful for students but when it is not possible, the Internet steps in to make virtual experiences available," comments Erskine.

This award was named in memory of Dr. H.H. David Stern in recognition of his contribution to second language instruction in Canada. The award includes a grant towards the furthering of the recipient's efforts in innovative classroom practices supporting second language learning. The winners were announced during the CASLT spring meetings held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Congratulations to the winners.

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